



**First Presbyterian Church**  
*of Metuchen*

Where God's Love Welcomes All



**November 10, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

[www.fpcweb.org](http://www.fpcweb.org)

(732) 491-2300



Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Khayla Johnson  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer  
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas  
Indonesian Pastoral Supply: Rev. Leksmana Leonard  
Director of Music Ministries: Jordan Klotz  
Minister of Music Emeritus: Brenda Arnold Day  
Director for Christian Education: Nancy Leardi

## ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

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### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME/TIDINGS

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'  
The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**All: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their  
sheaves.**

\*HYMN # 301 Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

#### \*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

God of mercy hear our prayer. May those who sow in tears reap in joy; may those who weep find the voice of praise. Find within us what is broken and let love be our balm; take from us the impulse to hate and disdain and let compassion be our guide. This is a house of prayer; may our words ever offer you glory. God of mercy hear our prayer. Amen.

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*HYMN #654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

#### MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

#### CHILDREN'S TIME

Sue West

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will exit to their Sunday School classrooms. Older children remain in worship.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8:4-11

Wally Cook

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM O How Amiable Senior Choir Vaughan Williams

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 8:12-15  
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Amending the Soil" The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### SETTLING OF THE WORD

\*HYMN # 792 There is a Balm in Gilead BALM IN GILEAD

### CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY If With All Your Hearts, Melissa Garcia on flute MENDELSSOHN

\*DOXOLOGY # 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE  
The Peace of Christ be with you . . . ***And also with you.***

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and let us not fall into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN # 802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is ST. COLUMBIA

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**

*Today's greeter is Sandra Lалуw, and the ushers are Eli Bourne, Ronnie Kaminski, Maggy Cook,  
Karen Sorensen, and Wendy Kukowski,*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Jim Kozo on his birthday,  
from Susan, Dave, Caitlin, Ethan and Abby.*

*The flowers in the Narthex are in loving memory of Jennifer Mirande for her birthday, November 15,  
from her parents, John and June Keithler.*

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Luke 8:4-10**

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand."

**SCRIPTURE READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Luke 8:11-15**

'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

**SCRIPTURE READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

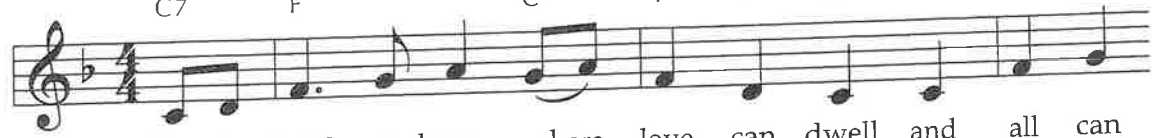
**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

# 301

# Let Us Build a House

## All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)  
 C7 F C F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm



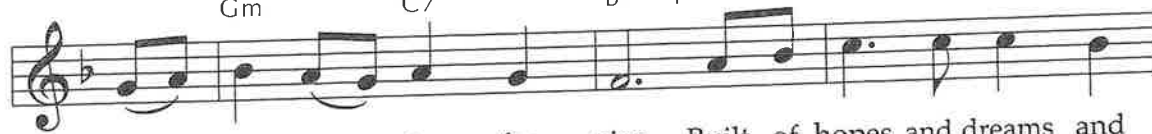
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)  
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek  
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground  
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)  
 Gm C7 B<sup>b</sup> F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)  
 Gm C F B<sup>b</sup>



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we  
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

*Refrain*

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)  
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

## In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -

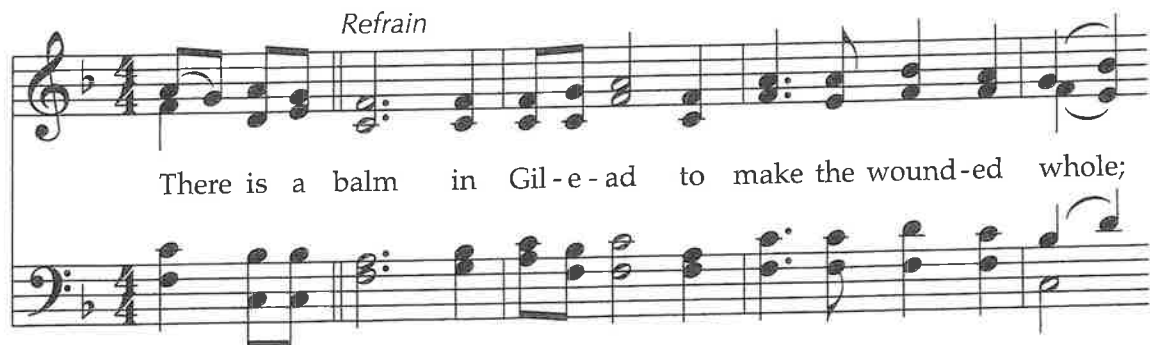
joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

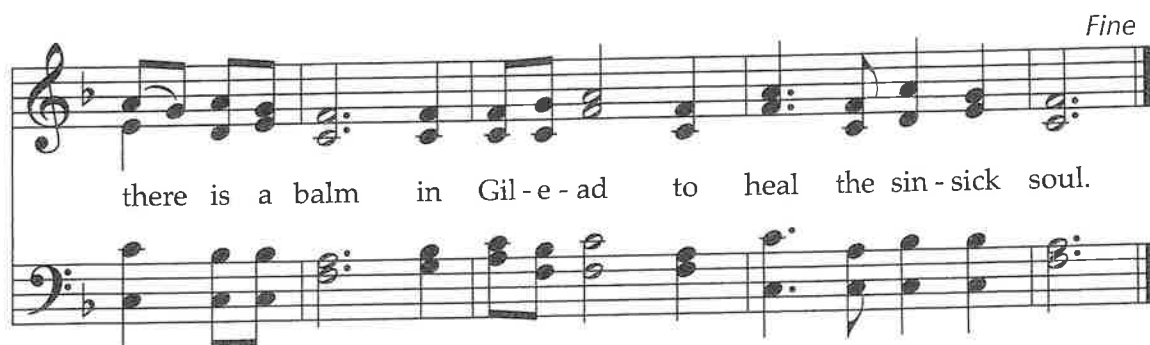
## There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

*Refrain*

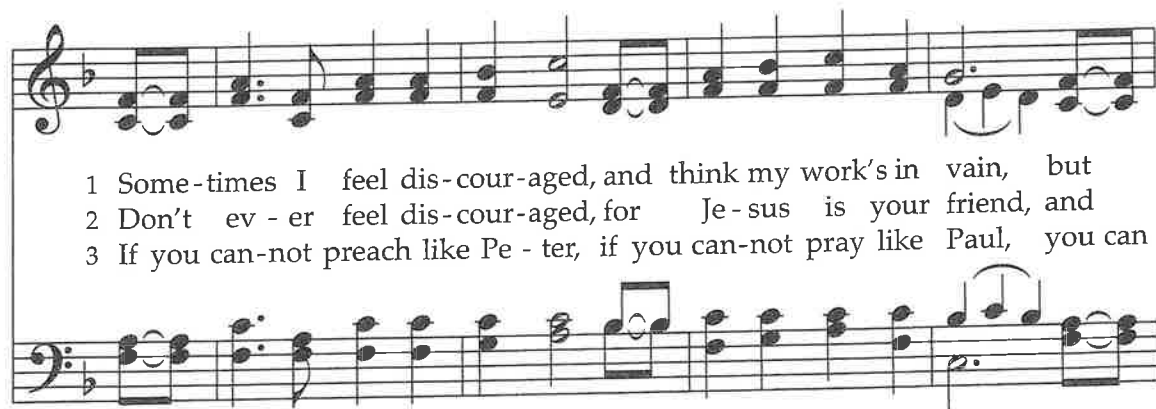


There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

*Fine*

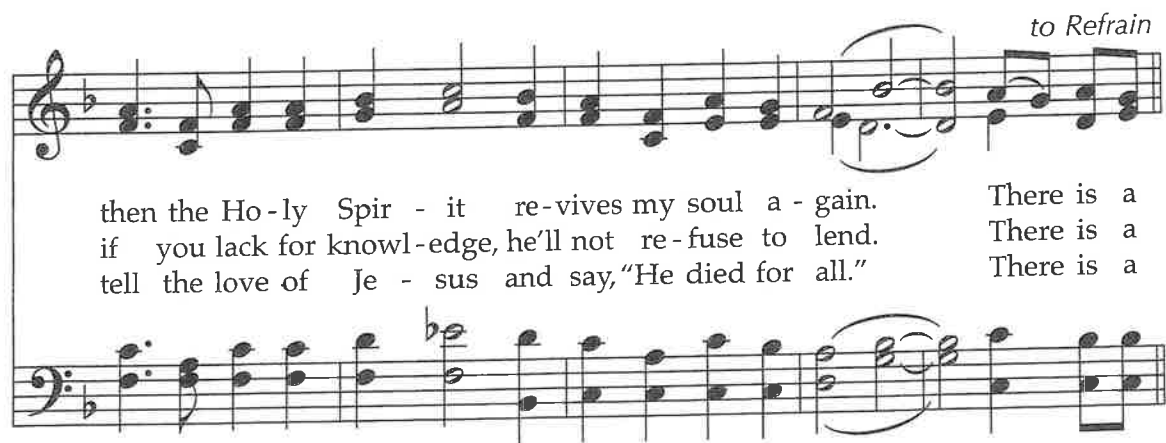


there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but  
 2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and  
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

*to Refrain*



then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. There is a  
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a  
 tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

606

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures  
here be - low; praise \*him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

\*Or "God"



## 802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
 thy unction grace bestoweth;  
 and O what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days  
 thy goodness faileth never;  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

Since its creation in the mid-19th century, this text has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased in the early 20th century when *The English Hymnal*, 1906, first joined these words to this flowing Irish melody.

## OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen has adopted a policy that individuals listed must grant permission for their names to be included on the weekly prayer list. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month and then be removed unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Dey Adam (*Dawn Adam's sister*)  
Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)  
James Angley (*Lynne Angley's son*)  
Marilyn Avery  
The Bellini family (*friends of the Brennan's*)  
\*Agnes Bertelsen  
John and Gemma Bertelsen (*Brother and sister-in-law of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)  
Anna Cackowski (*daughter of Al & Helen Burr-Cackowski*)  
Cassidy family (*Marty Brennan's relatives*)  
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)  
\*Beverly Cummings  
Bruce Dangremond (*brother of Mary Kay Dangremond*)  
\*Mary Kay Dangremond  
\*Henry and Rita Dengah  
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)  
Darla Dimatteo  
Robert Doeg (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)  
\*Ruth Endicott  
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)  
Carol Franklin (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)  
\*Marie Gale  
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)  
\*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)  
\*Margaret Hathaway

Marion Kovacs (*friend of June Keehler*)  
\*Susan Kozo  
Elaine LeSter (*Lorraine LeSter's sister*)  
MacArthur family (*Allison Brennan's cousin and family*)  
Elizabeth Mack (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)  
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)  
Chris McGrane (*friend of Sue Harmon*)  
Patty Meyer (*Daughter-in-law of Jane and Ed Meyer*)  
Michael  
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)  
Joan Murray (*Allison Brennan's mother*)  
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)  
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)  
\*Dave Ryder  
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)  
\*Deb Sorensen  
Lorenzo Soto (*Kristina Scoglio's cousin*)  
Sarah Abed Van Pelt (*Chris Van Pelt's daughter-in-law*)  
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)  
Crystal Smith Williams (*friend of the Food Pantry*)  
David Wong  
\*Lynn Hendricks Wong  
Sylvia Zanoni (*Mother-in-law of Wendy Kukowski*)  
Michael Zambri (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)

### **Names highlighted in boldface were recently added**

\*Members of the church

### **FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:**

David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Portsmouth, VA (*Son of Fred & Kathy Garry*)  
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*son of Elaine Hansen*)  
MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)  
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Lawrence, KS (*Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law*)  
Major Matthew McQueeney, Pilot & DO, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho (*son/stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)  
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family friend*)  
\*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army – Ft. Carson, CO (*brother/son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver*)  
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF (*granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr*)  
Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

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# THIS WEEK

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
And by appointment for other times

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
Refreshments – Room 109 . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
New Member Class – Session Room . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
Confirmation Class – Room 203

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

DBSA Support Group – Room 109. . . . . 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Jubilee Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
First Tuesday – GLOW Room . . . . . 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
AA Support Group – Room 109 . . . . . 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel. . . . . 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Men’s Breakfast – Social Center . . . . . 7:30 a.m.  
Pastoral Study: Pericopes of Luke – PW Lounge . 10:30 a.m.  
Crafty Ladies, PW Lounge . . . . . 1:00 p.m.  
Westminster Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 6:30 p.m.  
Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Youth Group – Youth Room (Rm. 211) . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
Local Mission . . . . . 11:45 a.m.  
Junior Choir – Choir Room. . . . . 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.  
Joy Ringers – Sanctuary . . . . . 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Mission Commission . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 8:00 p.m.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Women’s AA Support Group – Room 109. . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Gender Affirming Closet – Social Center . . . . 1:00-4:00 p.m.



## PASTORAL CARE:

If you or someone you know needs our support or is in the hospital, please feel free to contact Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, or by appointment.

# COMING SOON

Nov 19 Personnel Commission – Zoom 7:30 pm  
Nov 20 Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room 7:00 pm  
Nov 20 Deacons Lunch and Games – SC 12:00 pm  
Nov 21 Junior Club, Social Center 5:30 pm  
Nov 24 New Member Reception – Room 109 10:30 am

## ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR

Scan the QR code below or click <https://bit.ly/4emWby6> to access the Online Church Calendar on the FPC website for more details of what’s happening in the coming weeks.



## TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

### Offerings & Gifts Received November 3

Pledge	\$ 4,574
Non-pledge	\$ 1,521
Cash	\$ 115
Food Pantry	\$ 600
Special Funds	\$ 402
Special Offerings	\$ 100

**TOTAL: \$ 7,427**

**Other Receipts: \$455 (Parking & Building Use)**

## HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

- Direct** Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!
- Online** From our website [fpcweb.org/give](https://fpcweb.org/give), click on the **Give Online** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.
- Text** Text to give using this number: (855) 964-5393, and follow the prompts.

**Thank you for your generous support!**



**Today, November 10**

**Session Room, After worship**

The final new member class is today. Even if you did not have a chance to attend last week's class, come and have your questions answered. Join Rev. Garry and meet and get to know FPC's Session members. New members will be welcomed in a reception to be held on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

We hope you will join now!

**First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen**



**Christmas Pageant**

**December 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

All Sunday School and CNS families are welcome to be part of our annual Christmas Pageant. Please let us know of your interest. Some guidelines to be observed:

- Children must be 4 years old or older by 10/1/24.
  - Children must attend the rehearsals at the church on December 1st, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15th from 10:30-11:30 am, and the dress rehearsal on Dec. 19 at 4:15 pm.
- Use this QR code to sign up.



For questions, email:  
[fpcpageant@fpcweb.org](mailto:fpcpageant@fpcweb.org)



FPC Handbell Choirs will be performing a program of Advent and Christmas music as part of the Candlelight Concert Series. On Sunday, December 1, come at 7PM to a serenely lit space with music of the season. The concert will be held after the Metuchen Winter Parade and Tree Lighting.

Suggested donation: \$22/adults; \$18/seniors; children are free.

**OutFront Metuchen**

**Gender-Affirming Closet**

Free clothes, accessories and makeup for LGBTQIA+ middle and high schoolers and allies to support their gender identity

**Saturday November 16th**  
**1pm - 4pm**

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen  
Social center entrance  
270 Woodbridge Ave, Metuchen

Please consider donating non-perishable food to the FPC Food Pantry

The graphic features illustrations of a blue jacket, a grey baseball cap, a pink makeup bag, a white flower, a pair of glasses, and a blue shirt.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
presents

**2024 HOLLY FAIR**  
**Bake Sale + Coffee Bar,**  
**Christmas Décor and**  
**Jewelry Trunk Show**  
**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**  
**Social Center Dining Room**



Help us make this another successful fundraiser for the Presbyterian Women:

- Donate gently used or new vintage and contemporary jewelry. WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS, and thank you in advance! Drop off donations at the Church office by November 27th.
- If you are a baker we also will be happy to receive your delicious baked goods to sell.



**Questions?**

Email Cindy O'Neill (mimabook@aol.com) or call the Church office (732) 491-2300



We are blessed with exceptional music leadership at FPC. Each Sunday, our talented staff fills our services with beautiful music. They also offer four voice choirs and four bell choirs for all ages. Your generosity through our Stewardship campaign supports these vital programs and the heart of our church.

To pledge, please call the church office, email the church treasurer Colleen Walker ([cwalker@fpcweb.org](mailto:cwalker@fpcweb.org)) or use this QR code.



**THANK YOU!**

warm their feet  
**SOCK DRIVE**  
**Dec. 1st - DEC. 15TH**  
GIVE THE GIFT OF HAPPY FEET BY  
DONATING NEW SOCKS.

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen  
270 Woodbridge Ave. Metuchen, NJ 08840

**= Parents' Night Out**

For kids 3 years and older \*  
**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Room 109 of the Education Bldg.

\*Registration required

requested donation  
**\$10.00**

A fundraiser for the Presbyterian Youth and Presbyterian Young Women

*With love and gratitude*

Deb Teall sends her love and gratitude to her Church family for all the prayers, well-wishes, cards, texts, and phone calls as she recovered from surgery. You have all sped her return to good health!

